Computerisation of manuscripts

†1792. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any suggestion has been received by Government regarding computerisation of manuscripts of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when this task would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However the National Library, Kolkata have 61 pages of manuscripts (poems and other writings) of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore and it plans to digitize these manuscripts in collaboration with the National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM). The project will be completed within one year after commencement.

Acquisition of Mysore Palace

1793. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Karnataka has passed a legislation for the acquisition of the Royal Palace of Mysore;

(b) the proposed action plan prepared to acquire and its status;

(c) the amount of compensation/value fixed and what are the yardsticks adopted and who are its recepients; and

(d) whether Government are likely to interfere in this issue for ensuring an amicable settlement through Archaeology/Tourism Department?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State Government of Karnataka has passed a legislation called Mysore Palace (Acquisition and Transfer) Act, 1998. Since the Hon'ble Supreme Court has directed to maintain *status-quo*, no further action has been taken.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) Rs. 32 crores has been fixed as compensation amount. However, as the matter is *sub-judice*, the details of recepients will be identified only after the disposal of the matter by the Hon'ble Apex Court.

(d) Question does not arise.

Cultural exchanges between India and Pakistan

1794. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cultural exchanges between India and Pakistan took place in last one year;

(b) what steps are being taken to strengthen cultural ties between the two countries;

(c) whether there is a proposal to hold a SAARC cultural festival every year; and

(d) the steps are being taken to strengthen cultural ties in the region?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Recently, Secretary (Culture) level talks between India and Pakistan on "Promotion of friendly exchanges in various fields" were held in New Delhi on August 3-4, 2004. Subsequently, India has made proposals to Pakistan for implementing the suggestions made during the Culture Secretary level talks in August, 2004.

(c) Under the forum of SAARC there is a provision of SAARC Film Festivals and SAARC Cultural Festivals. Sri Lanka hosted the first ever SAARC Film Festival in September, 1999. The second SAARC Cultural Festival was recently held in Dhaka in March 28-31, 2004 and the third SAARC Cultural Festival is to be held in India in 2005.

(d) (i) Invitation to Pakistani artistes for participation in 11th Triennale-India exhibition being organised by Lalit Kala Akademi from January 15-February 10, 2005 in New Delhi.

(ii) Invitation for participation of two to three theatre groups from Pakistan in the 7th Rang Mahotsav (National Theatre Festival)